

Attorney Docket No. P13314-US2
Customer Number 27045

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicant has amended claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, and 14. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 13 have been canceled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, and 14 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, 8 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sayers, et al. (US 6,539,237) in view of Lu, et al. (US 5,761,195). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has canceled claims 1, 6, 8 and 13 without prejudice.

The Examiner rejected claims 5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sayers in view of Dommety, et al. (US 6,654,361). In order to expedite allowance of this application, the Applicant has amended claims 5 and 12 so that they depend from claims 2 and 9, respectively. Thus, claims 5 and 12 recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claims 2 and 9. Therefore, this rejection with respect to these claims is deemed to be moot.

3.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant notes with appreciation the conditional allowance of claims 2-4, 7, 9-11 and 14. As the Examiner has suggested, claims 2, 7, 9-11, and 13 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitation of the base claims and any intervening claims. Therefore no amendments have been made to narrow the scope of the pending claims or to create any sort of estoppel.

As explained above, claims 5 and 12 now depend on allowable claims 2 and 9, respectively. Therefore, the allowance of claims 5 and 12 is also respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicant believes all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for all pending claims.

The Applicant requests a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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